

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2008

Via Facsimile and Regular Mail

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chao:

We respectfully request that the Department of Labor issue a 45-day extension to the comment period for its proposed rules on the H2-A program. On February 6 of this year, the Department of Labor proposed new rules to modernize the H2-A program which provides agricultural employers access to seasonal and temporary foreign skilled labor. The H2-A program is critically important to Wyoming's agricultural industry and we recognize the many problems that exist with the current program and would like to see improvements to its efficiency, timeliness and ease of use for both foreign workers and U.S. employers.

However, many Wyoming employers have not had an opportunity to fully review and analyze the proposed rules by the Department of Labor. The spring season brings many demands on the time of agricultural producers, and many have expressed interest in reviewing these proposed rules. Given the importance of this program to Wyoming's agricultural industry, we respectfully request that you provide more time for further comment. Feedback from the public is surely one of the most essential elements of successful rulemaking. In this case, any comment period shorter than two months during the busy spring calving, lambing and planting season is simply not enough time to allow for meaningful comments.

We are aware that the comment period is scheduled to close on March 31, 2008. We ask that you issue a 45-day extension beyond the scheduled March 31 deadline. Thank you for considering this request to extend the comment period for the proposed H2-A rule changes. Please keep us apprised of your decision so that we may keep Wyoming constituents informed.

Sincerely,


Senator Mike Enzi


Senator John Barrasso